



HOTEL BELLEVUE PALACE BERNE

Grand Hotel & Bernerhof

Berne
13 Sept '47

Dear Hilly:

*Hotter than hell here today
and the universal cry of "what
a terrible summer with no rain
for our crops" can be heard any-
where.*

*Have almost finished the rounds
on the continent except for
Brussels where I'll be on the 17th
after going back through Frankfurt
and Berlin. Will stop over one
day at Paris and then on to
London to wind up things there.*

*Hav'n't missed many people
at any place and have talked
to the Ambassadors, MA's and NA's*

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let their hair down a bit
and get acquainted. The response
is terrific! Now they are all
warmed up over a visit from
you and it will do a world
of good.

-2-
at every place they are located,
all are extremely interested in
us and I have found practically
no reluctance toward complete
cooperation.

It has been a fine experience
to see all our people and to
tie names into people as individuals.
We have some fine workmen and
only a few that should be changed.
For the first time I feel a
real appreciation of the field problems
and the experience has been
worth its weight in gold.

I have made a point of
talking to the entire staff at
each location and explaining
things which have recently occurred
with regard to legislation and
organization. And at every main
location we have had a family
council party where they could

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A more important thing to do
at the time I was in that area.

One thing I would recommend in planning for your trip. I would suggest that you ask Van to officially set up a plane (preferably a C-47) for your use from the European Air Transport Command (EATS). The plane could meet you in Paris for example and the plane and crew stay with you. Gen Banfill took good care of me as a personal favor but, in view of your status and that of the Agency, I believe it should be set up ahead of time.

Best regards to all. Hope your lecture tour was a success. And how I'm looking forward to some real Christensen-Bryan-Gray coffee.

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Sam
"Puckie"

Paris, 28 August 1947

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Boss:

I understand that this will go out in the pouch on Monday - and probably reach you as quickly as Air Mail or any other method.

I haven't been too successful in contacting people here. Many are away on vacation and there are other factors involved which make it, I think, undesirable to confer with any minor characters. So I have restrained myself from doing anything more than meeting the various people in the mission, talking briefly to the Ambassador and to the [] and [].

For one thing, [] is away on leave and no one around here seems to have the right connections for me to establish contact on any proper level. Also [] is away at the moment. [] left here for London the day I arrived and I'm hoping to see him when I pass through here on my return. [] appears to be in the country but may be back tonight - in which case I will see him ~~xxxxxxx~~ tonight. You can see that my hands were a little tied unless it seemed desirable to talk to people on a level which I think our interests prohibit.

Further, everyone here is so anxious to see you personally that it seems much better that I lay off - with the hope that you can come here in the next month or so and line things up. I do feel that when you come here you should place the high level [] contacts in our own channels as opposed to continuing them to the present extent in []. The conditions are ripe for a compromise or a cross-up to the disadvantage of both ourselves and the office of the []. It was all OK when you handled it personally but the conditions are somewhat changed now.

So I have done little but talk to our own people, reorient them on operations and organization, listen to their troubles - and do my best to ease them on the ground. It is again apparent that a visit from the home office is what these people in the field need once in awhile. It gives them a boost and makes them realize the full extent of our job.

Am leaving for Heidelberg in the morning. My best regards to all. I'm glad I'm not buying lunches for anyone at this location. My lunch today was a mere 790 francs, and not too good at that. But times are bad everywhere!

Again @ My Best.

As Ever,

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DOCUMENT NO. _____
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☐ DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S 02011
NEXT REVIEW DATE: _____
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 12 MAR 1981 REVIEWER: _____

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Vienna, 4 September '47.

Dear Boss:

A few minutes after lunch which allow me to stop this rapid pace and practice my typewriter system. This trip has been wonderful from so many angles and I have learned a lot of new angles - but the pace is really something to worry about. But the people we have in the field are a great bunch of artisans who also know how and when to relax a bit and I should have no objection to helping them.

I really am amazed and gratified at the talent we have in these field stations. Their morale is extremely high after months and years of wondering what their status is and will be. They are doing a grand job and know their business and, after hearing the story of the Congressional actions and the changes in Organization, they are genuinely happy over the future.

Have had wonderful luck in meeting and talking to people. After reviewing the [redacted] station and its activities I visited the G-2 people [redacted] and had a nice luncheon and conversation with [redacted]. Then took the night train [redacted] last Sunday night with [redacted].

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The timing was most opportune because Monday being labor day -and a holiday- I was able to see all the key people without standing in line. Had a fine chat with Mr. Murphy, General Clay, General Walsh, and a host of lesser lights. Then went into the details of the local operation, talked to all the staff and had a nice party with all of them together. They are really on the front line in this game and are perfectly competent to handle it well. They fit in well with all the Military Government and Military groups and are highly thought of.

Visited [redacted] at his home Monday afternoon and only managed to get away after three of his personally prepared Old-Fashions. He, as did all the others I met, wants me to send his best personal regards.

Took the air route back [redacted] in a special plane turned out by Gen Walsh. [redacted] and I went slightly operational on the return trip but that must be told later.

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Visited Gen Banfills in Wiesbaden and one of the results is that I am now travelling in a private plane with a crew of three officers and two enlisted men. After returning to Heidelberg from Berlin I paid a call on General Burrus and the local Constabulary Commander, Gen Gallagher. They are most

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-2-

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enthusiastic over the way our people conduct themselves in [] in every way and want to do everything possible to help us keep operating. I was able to settle a few things to our advantage which our people locally had not been able to clear. We can get anything we need in the way of cooperation from the Constabulary.

On Wednesday morning (yesterday) I made a real military inspection of the enlisted men of the [] which I think they enjoyed. Then talked to them. It was something they needed and seemed to have a good effect from the standpoint of morale.

Left Frankfurt yesterday afternoon in my newly assigned air job and arrived in Vienna at 6:30 without our friends taking any pot shots at us. Last evening the chief of the mission here ([] had a beautiful dinner at his house - to which he had Gen and Mrs Keyes, Gen and Mrs Balmer, Col and Mrs Bixel (the local G-2), [] (who is [] second in command here) and myself. It was a grand opportunity to see these people socially and was particularly nice as they are all old friends and acquaintances.

This morning [] and I had a fine talk with the Minister. In a few minutes I am calling officially on Gen Keyes. After seeing the Minister we had all the mission together so I could talk to them. This mission is really in the family as regards both the military and embassy groups. Everywhere I am told what a fine job they are doing.

I understand [] is returning to the states very soon and I hope [] has a good job lined up for him. He is young but outstanding and handles his contacts with the top people better than anyone I have seen so far. He obviously knows his business inside and out and both he and his wife are a real social asset to any group. They are the type we want to hang onto and you might want to inquire of [] what is in view with regard to [] In a private conversation with the Minister this morning the Minister indicated he would like to have [] as his immediate assistant if he ever left us.

[] I can't tell you what encouragement this trip has given me and I feel strongly that you should make it as planned. Everyone is anxious to see the Boss and you have some fine workmen everywhere.

Hope everything is OK by you and that you've finally landed in that house. Please give my regards to everyone. I hope I live through this to see them all again before too long. Conditions are bad in all these countries but I haven't felt it. Never have I lived on such a grand scale and ~~xxxxxx~~ everyone is so very kind. I'm afraid I'm just adding to the weight, certainly I haven't wanted for refreshment - and how I could use some ~~xxxx~~ extra sleep. So much for now.

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As Ever

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CONFIDENTIAL

Stark

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SECRET & PERSONAL

5 September 1947

Dear Pinkie:

Thanks very much for your letter of 27 August which was waiting for me when I came back from my long-distance speaking tour. I have shown it to [] and to some of the others, and we all enjoyed it. However, don't tell us about sunshine. We have lots of that around here along with an unbearable amount of heat!

I think your dope about the results of the meetings in [] is very sound, and I think you must continue to stick on that line when you go back and see them again. We can still stand on our former basis and that is liaison and connections on the high levels but none with the working members. We want to keep the same basis that we discussed before you left.

Everything else in your letter was fine. We enjoyed the news about Bissell and Ambassador Caffery and all the other news that you sent, and we all shall be waiting to welcome you back. [] and I are getting thin because we can't find anybody to buy lunches for us! With best wishes and count on us for any support or help you need.

Sincerely,

SECRET

~~TOP SECRET~~

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Paris, France,
27 August 1947

Dear Boss:

This is a brief note - written by my own professional hand - while waiting to see [REDACTED]. Arrived here in Paris last night after a nice trip over on The Golden Arrow. Am now deposited in a nice spot at the Ritz and will probably stay here a day or so more before taking off for Germany.

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Before going into anything of a serious matter I'd like to sound off about the weather that seems to be going along with me. It has been absolutely perfect ever since leaving New York. I saw more sunshine and warmth in my five days in England than I saw in all the time I spent there before. The people of course are enjoying it no end and actually getting some color in their cheeks. And here in Paris the sun still shines with a considerable amount of heat in it.

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Have just taken time out to drop in on the Ambassador. He seems well satisfied with our assistance to him. He sends his best to you and says you are badly missed around here and everyone is anxious to see you. I inidicated you might be around in a short while.

My regards to everyone. Hope your speech making and local travels~~h~~ haven't worn you out and that you haven't been buying too many lunches. Also hope you have all been missing not only Wright but also his contributions to the food and drink situation.

More later about this place.

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As Ever,

Puckie